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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

WEST VIRGINIA— Commercial red meat production during August 2003 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was 52 percent above July 2003, but 3 percent below August 2002 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 607,000 pounds, unchanged from August 2002. Cattle slaughter totaled 600 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight at 1044 pounds was down 37 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 217,000 pounds, down 10 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 900 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight at 234 pounds was down 13 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial Sheep and Lamb slaughter totaled 13,000 pounds, unchanged from last year. Sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 100 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight at 126 pounds was up 14 pounds from the previous year.

UNITED STATES—Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.91 billion pounds in August, down 5 percent from the 4.14 billion pounds produced in August 2002.

August 2002 contained 22 weekdays and 5 Saturdays.
August 2003 contained 21 weekdays and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.33 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.13 million head, down 2 percent from August 2002. The average live weight was down 34 pounds from the previous year, at 1,225 pounds.

Veal production totaled 14.2 million pounds, a new monthly low and 15 percent below August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 79,700 head, down 17 percent from August 2002. The average live weight was 5 pounds above last year, at 294 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.56 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.04 million head, 6 percent below August 2002. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 260 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.7 million pounds, was down 6 percent from August 2002 and was a new monthly low. Sheep slaughter totaled 241,200 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 129 pounds, up 3 pounds from August a year ago.

January to August 2003 commercial red meat production was 31.0 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down slightly, pork was down slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 10 percent.

OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA - The forecast for the 2003 **apple** production is 90 million pounds (2.14 million 42-lb. bushel equivalents), down 5 million pounds or 5 percent from the August 1 forecast, and down 5 million pounds or 5 percent from the 2002 crop.

Other hay production is forecast at 1,080,000 tons, up 15 percent from the 2002 crop. Other hay harvested acreage is expected to total 540,000 acres in 2003, up 20,000 acres from 2002. Yield is expected to average 2.0 tons per acre, up 11 percent or 0.2 tons from last year's yield. Due to program modifications, October 1 production forecast for alfalfa hay is not being published for West Virginia. The next alfalfa hay estimate will be published in January 2004.

The current estimate for **tobacco** production is 1.98 million pounds, up 2 percent from 2002. This estimate is carried forward from our August 1 forecast.

UNITED STATES

Apples: The final production forecast for the 2003 crop year is 9.35 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the August 1 forecast and 9 percent above 2002. Of the 7 States making October 1 production forecasts, Michigan and New York increased from the August 1 forecast, Pennsylvania and Virginia remained unchanged, while North Carolina, Washington, and West Virginia decreased from August. Production in the Eastern States (CT, GA, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, SC, VT, VA, WV) is forecast at 2.45 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the August 1 forecast and 36 percent above last season. Production from the August 1 forecast increased 18 percent in New York, remained unchanged in Pennsylvania and Virginia, and decreased 7 percent in North Carolina and 5 percent in West Virginia. A wet summer, along with sunny days and cool nights, contributed to excellent fruit size and good color in New York. There is some tree loss from Hurricane Isabel in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. All other Eastern States are carried forward from the August 1 forecast.

Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures: Production is forecast at 78.5 million tons, up less than 1 percent from the August forecast and 6 percent above 2002. Yields are expected to average 3.34 tons per acre, up 0.03 ton from the August forecast and 0.15 ton from last year. Harvested area is 23.5 million acres, unchanged from the August estimate but up 2 percent from 2002.

Other Hay: Production is forecast at 82.2 million tons, virtually the same as August but up 7 percent from 2002. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.01 tons, the same as the August forecast but 0.15 ton above last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield. Harvested acreage is estimated at 40.8 million, unchanged from the August estimate but down 1 percent from 2002.

Corn for grain: Production is forecast at 10.2 billion bushels, up 3 percent from last month and 13 percent above 2002. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 142.2 bushels per acre, up 3.7 bushels from September and up 12.2 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest ever. Both records were set in 1994 when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and the yield was 138.6 bushels per acre. Yields turned out to be higher than expected across much of the Corn Belt and central Great Plains as farmers began to harvest their crops.

Soybean: Production is forecast at 2.47 billion bushels, down 7 percent from the September forecast and 10 percent below 2002. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1996. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 34.0 bushels per acre, down 2.4 bushels from September and down 4.0 bushels from 2002.

All Tobacco: U.S. all tobacco production is forecast at 844 million pounds, 2 percent above the September 1 forecast but down 4 percent from 2002. If realized, this will be the smallest crop since 1908. Area for harvest is

forecast at 413,010 acres, down less than 1 percent from last month and down 4 percent from 2002. Yields for 2003 are expected to average 2,044 pounds per acre, 36 pounds higher than the September forecast but 11 pounds below a year ago.

Burley Tobacco: Production is expected to total 303 million pounds, up 4 percent from the September forecast and 1 percent higher than last year. Burley growers plan to harvest 149,200 acres, down 6 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 2,033 pounds per acre, 86 pounds above the September forecast and up 141 pounds from 2002.

CHICKENS & EGGS

August Egg Production Down One Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.31 billion during August 2003, down one percent from last year. Production included 6.24 billion table eggs and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during August 2003 averaged 332 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,201 eggs, up 1 percent from August 2002.

August 2003 contained 21 weekdays, and five Saturdays, compared to August 2002, with 22 weekdays and five Saturdays.

All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 2003, totaled 332 million, down 1 percent from a year ago. The 332 million layers consisted of 275 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.49 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 2003, averaged 70.6 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.82 billion eggs during August 2003, down one percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during August, at 310 million, was down 2 percent from a year ago.

Individual State estimates are available for the 30 major egg producing States. These States are as follows: AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, IL, IN, IA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NY, NC, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TX, VA, WA, and WI and account for approximately 94 percent of the total U.S. egg production. Production for the other States are grouped into an "Other States" category and combined with the 30 States published individually to obtain a U.S. estimate. Individual State estimates for "Other States" are available annually in the "**Chickens and Eggs Summary**" report.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Down 7 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during August totaled 33.2 million, down 7 percent from August 2002. Eggs in incubators totaled 31.8 million on September 1, 2003, down 4 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 184,000 during August 2003, down 17 percent from August 2002.

Broiler Hatch Up Slightly

The August 2003 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 783 million, was up slightly from August of the previous year. There were 632 million eggs in incubators on September 1, 2003, down slightly from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.4 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during August 2003, down 1 percent from August 2002.

MILK PRODUCTION

THIRD QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- Milk production in West Virginia totaled 56 million pounds during the July - September quarter of 2003. This was down 4 million pounds from the same quarter last year and 2 million pounds below the April - June 2003 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 15,000 head, unchanged from the previous quarter and the same quarter last year.

UNITED STATES Milk production in the U.S. during the July-September quarter totaled 41.5 billion pounds, down 0.6 percent from the July - September quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.07 million head, 88,000 head less than the same period last year.

SMALL GRAIN-ANNUAL SUMMARY

'September Ag Survey Results'

WEST VIRGINIA - Winter wheat production for 2003 totaled 287,000 bushels, down 15 percent from 336,000 bushels in 2002. Harvested area for grain totaled 7,000 acres, unchanged from 2002. Area planted totaled 12,000 acres, also unchanged from last year. The average yield of 41.0 bushels was down 7 bushels from the previous year. Estimates for oats, barley and rye are not included in the estimating program for West Virginia.

UNITED STATES - All wheat production totaled 2.34 billion bushels in 2003, up 2 percent from the last forecast and 44 percent above 2002. Grain area is 52.8 million acres, up 15 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 44.2 bushels per acre, up 8.9 bushels from a year ago. Levels of production and change from last year by type are: **winter wheat**, 1.71 billion bushels, up 49 percent; **other spring wheat**, 533 million bushels, up 35 percent; and **Durum wheat**, 96.6 million bushels, up 22 percent.

Oat production is estimated at 145 million bushels, 4 percent below the August 1 forecast but 22 percent above last year's 119 million bushels. The estimated yield is 65.0 bushels per acre, nearly the same as the August 1 forecast and up 8.3 bushels from a year ago. Record high yields are estimated in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Harvested area is 2.22 million acres, 5 percent below the August 1 forecast but 6 percent above last year. Compared with the August 1 estimate, area harvested for grain declined 20,000 acres

each in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, and Wisconsin.

Barley production is estimated at 276 million bushels, down 2 percent from the last forecast but up 22 percent from last year. Average yield per acre, at 58.9 bushels, is up 1.4 bushels from the last forecast and 4.0 bushels above 2002. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 4.69 million acres, down 4 percent from August but 14 percent above a year ago. The harvested area is down from August due mostly to hot dry weather in Montana where farmers were diverting some barley from grain to hay.

Rye production for 2003 is estimated at 9.25 million bushels, up 33 percent from last year's near record low. Harvested area totaled 339,000 acres, 21 percent above 2002. The U.S. yield, at 27.3 bushels per acre, is up 2.5 bushels from last year. Oklahoma, the largest producing State, matched its second highest yield on record, and North Dakota and South Dakota set new record high yields.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USAGE

Highlights

Field Crops: Field crop data on restricted use pesticides were compiled from the Agricultural Resource Management Study (ARMS) and from the Objective Yield Survey for selected Program States, with the main portion of data collection being conducted during the months of October-December of 2002. Targeted crops in the 2002 ARMS included corn, soybeans, durum wheat, other spring wheat, and winter wheat. The Program States accounted for 65 to 97 percent of the U.S. acreage for these selected crops.

Atrazine was again the most widely used restricted use herbicide applied to program field crops, with 62 percent of the field corn acres treated. Acetochlor was used on 25 percent of the corn acres.

A total of ten distinct active ingredients found in restricted use insecticides were reported as applied to corn and soybeans. Tefluthrin and Carbofuran, with 6 and 4 percent of the acres treated, respectively, were the primary restricted use insecticides used on corn. Lambda-cyhalothrin was the primary active ingredient reported in the restricted insecticides class for soybeans.

Picloram was applied to 2 percent of the acreage and the only restricted use active ingredient reported for Other Spring Wheat.

QUARTERLY HOGS

U.S. Hog Inventory Down 2 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 2003, was 59.6 million head. This was 2 percent below September 1, 2002, but 2 percent above June 1, 2003.

Breeding inventory, at 5.88 million head, was down 3 percent from September 1, 2002, and 1 percent below last quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 53.7 million head, was 2 percent below last year, but 2 percent above last quarter.

The June-August 2003 U.S. pig crop, at 25.2 million head, was 2 percent less than both 2002 and 2001. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.83 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.90 pigs saved per litter for the June-August 2003 period, equivalent to last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.80 million sows farrow during the September-November 2003 quarter, 1 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 2002 and 3 percent below 2001. Intended farrowings for December 2003-February 2004, at 2.77 million sows, are 2 percent below the same period in 2002, but 1 percent above 2001.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 35 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, unchanged from last year.

Revisions

All inventory and pig crop estimates for September 2002 through June 2003 were reviewed using final pig crop official slaughter, death loss, and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review no revisions were necessary to total hog inventory or pig crop in any quarter.

2002 WEST VIRGINIA HAY PRICES

WEST VIRGINIA - The Marketing Year Average Price for All Hay in 2002 was \$63.50 per ton, down \$3.00 per ton from 2001. Alfalfa was \$113.00 per ton, up \$15.00 from the previous year. All Other Hay averaged \$57.00 per ton, down \$5.50 per ton from 2001.

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Livestock Slaughter
Chicken & Eggs
November Crop Production
Cattle on Feed
Farm Labor

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